

Crown Point Community School Corporation

we are CP

Volume 1, Issue 2

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS!

Kindergarten
pre-registration
opens February 10

Construction Kicks Off at CPHS

TIMOTHY BALL &
MACARTHUR NEXT

Wheels on the
ELECTRIC bus go 'round

the ADVENTURE begins

This year, CPCSC has three choices for pre-registration:

- **Fully online** - Opens February 10. Enter student info AND upload your required documents yourself online.
- **Hybrid** - Enter student information online starting February 10, but bring your required documents to your child's school on the assigned date to be copied by school staff.
- **Fully in-person** - Complete student information and bring your required documents to your child's school on the assigned date.

Families who are new to the district or their school are encouraged to complete pre-registration via hybrid or in person.



**WELCOME TO
KINDERGARTEN!**
Crown Point Community School Corporation is thrilled to welcome the future class of 2025! If your child will be five years old before August 1, 2022, and you live in the district boundaries, we invite you to pre-register for kindergarten starting February 10. More information is available on our website at www.cps.k12.in.us/kindergarten

Hybrid and in-person pre-registration and document copying will be available at your child's future elementary school from **9:30-11:30 a.m. or 1:00-3:00 p.m.** on the following dates:

- **February 15 - Winfield, Eisenhower, and Lake Street Elementary Schools**
- **February 17 - Timothy Ball, Solon Robinson, and MacArthur Elementary Schools**



Pre-registration is for completing student information and providing required documents. Students and their families will be able to tour the building and meet teachers at a later date. Families can bring children to pre-registration, but it is not necessary.

Not sure which school your child will attend? Use the address tool on our kindergarten webpage.

Whether you complete pre-registration online, hybrid, or in-person, you must provide the following documents:

- Child's certified birth certificate (not hospital certificate)
- Child's immunization record
- Child's social security card
- Valid driver's license or state photo ID with current address
- Two of the following are required to prove residency: utility bills (NIPSCO, water), property deed or mortgage statement, or Lake County Tax Bill



After Pre-Registration

Final registration for kindergarten takes place in late July, which is similar to what you will complete every summer for your child before the school year begins.



Just before school begins, you and your kindergartener will be invited to take a practice ride on the school bus to and from the bus stop and school. Each school will also hold an open house to meet your teacher and take a tour.

If you have questions during the enrollment process, please contact your child's future school. Our kindergarten website page will be updated as more information is available.



What's a day in Kindergarten like? We had a class of students wear a GoPro camera to capture their day! Scan the QR code above with your phone's camera to watch the video, or find us on YouTube.



Get Ready!

Join our FREE kindergarten readiness program! Birth to School is a free kindergarten readiness program for children who live within the district boundaries and will enter kindergarten in the fall of 2022.

The program meets twice a month, and there are both day and evening sessions. Each hands-on class is an hour long and includes activities with basic literacy, math, social, and science skills. Caregivers stay with their children, and program leaders share activities that can be done at home to prepare for kindergarten.

To register or find more information, visit the Birth to School website at www.cps.k12.in.us/bts.



FORWARD for students

Construction at the new Taft Middle School site continues to progress on time and on budget. As part of the district’s ongoing capital improvement projects, construction has also started at Crown Point High School and will soon begin at other schools as well.

CROWN POINT HIGH SCHOOL

Construction will expand CPHS from a capacity of 2,800 students to 3,600. Principal Russ Marcinek says he’s excited that the expansion and renovations have started. “With these additions and upgrades, we can continue providing our students with the best educational experience possible,” he said.

The timeline for construction at CPHS goes through the winter of 2024 and will be completed in phases. Included in the renovations:

- Adding 25 new classrooms and 5 new science labs
- Upgrading art, PLTW/robotics, and career/technical education spaces
- Expanding the cafeteria and upgrading the food service program
- Updating the media center
- Using the courtyard to expand administration and guidance spaces
- Widening high-traffic hallways
- Adding rehearsal space to performing arts wing
- Adding indoor physical education space and updating the fitness lab



Catch a video of the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Taft Middle School! Scan the QR code above with your phone to watch the video, or find us on YouTube.

6th grade Taft students and principal Tracy Seibert officially break ground at the site of the new Taft Middle School. From left to right: Chad Kurth, Anna Sorci, Caidance Fowler, Tracy Seibert, Mia Bardeson, MJ Wilson, and Anthony Naumoski.



Right: A proposed design for the entrance to the CPHS Media Center. Plans include widening the hallway and upgrading finishes in the Media Center.

Bottom right: A proposed design for the new Project Lead the Way (PLTW) and robotics lab space. Plans will expand the classroom and equip it to provide a 21st century learning experience.

Bottom left: A widened hallway in the second floor science wing at CPHS will provide more room for students to access the new science labs.



Mr. Marcinek noted that although the high school is growing, CPHS wants to ensure every student has personal connections and meaningful goals during their four years of high school. “Our theme at CPHS this year has been ‘Connected Pursuits,’” he said. “Yes, we’re a big school, but students need a sense of purpose and community when they’re here. We will be able to provide more opportunities to make sure every student finds their place, that they find what fits their interests and develop connections within our school community.”

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

To provide similar opportunities and equal enrollment capacity at every elementary school, Timothy Ball, MacArthur, Eisenhower, Jerry Ross, and Solon Elementary Schools will all see construction within the next two years. Lake Street Elementary will receive minor upgrades as it is already the largest school, and construction at Winfield Elementary was completed in the summer of 2021.

The major elementary projects will take place at Timothy Ball and MacArthur. Later this spring, both buildings will start construction that is scheduled to be complete in the fall of 2023. The plans for each site includes:

- Adding 13 new classrooms
- Adding a new gymnasium with a stage
- Converting the old gym to a larger cafeteria and upgrading the food service area
- Converting the old cafeteria to a larger media center
- Upgrading art and music rooms, and adding a STEM space
- Improving accessibility and school safety
- Improving traffic flow for buses and car rider lines
- Upgrading playground spaces and equipment

continued on next page

Plans for Eisenhower, Jerry Ross, and Solon Robinson are currently being finalized. When all of the buildings are finished, the elementary schools will be able to house an equal number of students. Superintendent Dr. Todd Terrill noted that currently, the district’s elementary schools have a significant difference in their physical spaces. “By evening out the available space at each building, we have the opportunity to create enrollment equity. Our smaller schools can only hold around 500 students, while our largest school holds over 700,” he said. “We can expect to see some better balance between each building once the projects are finalized.”

COLONEL WHEELER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Col. Wheeler Middle School won’t be left out. Plans are being finalized to ensure that Wheeler has the same student capacity and features as the new Taft Middle School. What is currently the CPCSC Learning Center will be incorporated into the existing Wheeler building. The two buildings will be connected by a new auditorium and elective course classrooms. Preschool classrooms currently housed at the Learning Center will move to Timothy Ball, where a special preschool wing will be built.

THE CURRENT TAFT SITE

When the new Taft Middle School opens, the existing Taft site will become home to the CPCSC administration offices, which are currently split between three locations. Specialized programs such as CAP (alternative education) will receive new spaces in the northern section of the current Taft building. Plans are still being finalized, and more details will be shared in the upcoming months.

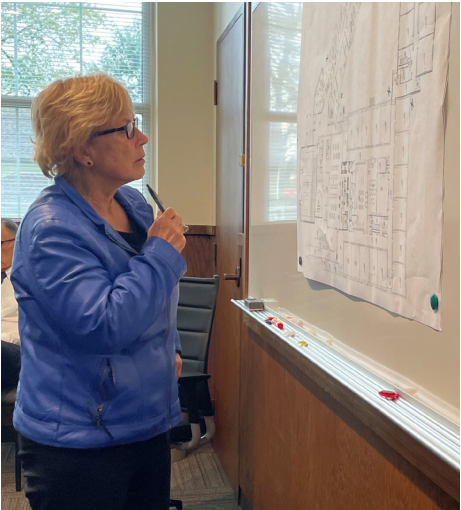
The latest updates about the district’s capital improvement projects can be found online at www.cps.k12.in.us/capital.



Left (both): Proposed renderings of what MacArthur Elementary may look like after construction is complete, including the addition of classrooms on the west side and a new gym on the east side.



Below: Principal Marian Buchko examines site plans for construction at MacArthur Elementary. The design team considered options for improving traffic flow and student safety at drop off and dismissal.



Timothy Ball Elementary will receive a new gymnasium, kindergarten wing, and a preschool center all on the east side of the building. New classrooms will be added to the west side. The existing storage barn will be removed to make more room for the car rider line.





Community Builds Here.

We Are CP

As the district moves through its capital improvement projects, community members might notice the motto “Community Builds Here.” Three important parts of the capital improvement projects have a positive effect on the local community.

No Tax Increase
 The CPCSC community will not see an increase in taxes for these projects. Funding for construction is through the sale of bonds, which took place in November of 2021. The bonds replace existing debt that begins ‘falling off’ in the upcoming years. The community will continue to have high-quality schools without additional tax dollars.

Local Economic Benefits
 In July of 2021, the CPCSC Board of School Trustees adopted a Responsible Bidder Ordinance. This ensures that construction work isn’t automatically awarded to the lowest bidder, but instead to the lowest *responsible* bidder based on factors such as safety, training, quality, and more. Passing this ordinance means local companies can be more competitive in the bidding process. Money is passed back through our local economy, and local workers are employed on the projects. The local community is literally building the school community, and the school community is supporting local businesses and families.

Equal Resources and Enrollment
 The populations of Crown Point, Winfield, and Cedar Lake continue to grow. To keep pace with the changing population, use district resources efficiently and ensure schools have a balanced number of students, some school boundaries will be adjusted for the start of the 2023-2024 school year. Parents can expect to receive communication about this process in early spring of 2023. The capital improvement projects ensure all students in the community have the same opportunities and educational experiences, no matter which CPCSC school a student attends.

we are ALL cp

CPCSC takes big steps to improve Department of Exceptional Education

For the district's youngest students, the preschool program was expanded to include students who do not have disabilities. "Students, both disabled and non-disabled, should be learning together as much as possible. That should start from the beginning. Our preschool now serves all students and is in four locations throughout the district," said Oost.

Progress has been made to ensure more exceptional learners are spending their day alongside their peers. Two years ago approximately 14% of exceptional

learners were spending less than 40% of their school day in a general education setting. By providing additional support staff and training, that percentage has been cut in half. The district has also invested in additional training and resources through a number of organizations which will be utilized over the course of two more years to provide all teachers with professional development.

When asked about what she hopes to see for students in the future, Paskis said knowing that almost all students with disabilities are being educated in

their assigned home school with all of the necessary resources and support is the ultimate measure of success.

The department also hopes to grow community partnerships and parental involvement to provide a positive experience not just for students, but for their families and the larger community, too. "At the end of the day, every one of our exceptional learners is part of this district and this community," she said. "We want our program to truly represent that."



Did you know...

CPCSC has an Exceptional Education cheer team and boys' basketball team. Pictured above are the Bulldog Blazers along with members of the CPHS cheer team. The Blazers began cheering in 2010 and perform each year at a home football game, a couple of varsity basketball games, and the Exceptional Education basketball games.

Photo generously provided by The Stremпка Gallery.

CPCSC's Department of Exceptional Education - sometimes referred to as special education - serves more than 1,200 of the district's 8,200+ students. These 1,200 students have a wide range of disabilities; from ADHD to the autism spectrum to physical disabilities and many more. With the help of Indiana University, the department and district administration conducted an audit in February of 2020 to determine how to better serve exceptional learners and their families.

"I knew we had work to do," said Director of Exceptional Education Heather Paskis. "The audit showed us exactly what that work should be." Paskis, who joined the district in August of 2019, said the audit provided a clear picture of where to restructure and improve.

With the audit's suggestions in place, the department focused on some major initiatives:

- Reorganize staff so more students are educated at their assigned home schools.

- Expand the preschool program to include non-disabled students, and restructure the education experience for 18-22 year-old students.
- Add staff - including teachers, paraprofessionals, and highly specialized positions.
- Retrain staff on referrals for students with disabilities, reporting requirements, and other parts of special education and disability law.
- Include exceptional learners in the general education setting for more time during the school day.

In two years, the department has made significant strides to address the initiatives. "One of the biggest changes is in our staff," said Assistant Director Kelly Oost. "We have added Exceptional Education coordinators, behavior technicians and specialists, a social worker, diagnosticians, and more teachers. Each addition has made our team into a more dynamic group of educators and has expanded our ability to serve our students."

When asked what they think some people may not know about Exceptional Education, both Paskis and Oost agreed most people don't know that the district is required to educate students with disabilities as young as three and as old as 22. To provide better services and opportunities for CPCSC's oldest learners, a transition to adulthood program was designed for 18-22 year-old students. Previously, these students were in class with younger 9-12th graders at the high school. In 2021, the program received its own space at the Learning Center where students and teachers can focus on skills for independent living and self-advocacy.



Above: MacArthur students Beau and Nolan work on an activity during Best Buddies. Best Buddies is an international program that builds friendships between all students. Many CPCSC schools have a Best Buddies program.

Left: Student Emily and paraprofessional Marissa complete an assignment about visiting different places in the community.

Get involved! To partner with our Department of Exceptional Education to host students on community outings, please contact our Learning Center at 219-663-4330. Parents of exceptional learners are encouraged to join the Parent Advisory Committee. Please email hpaskis@cps.k12.in.us for more information.

standard response protocol

School safety terms that guide actions in an emergency

Across the country, students have returned this year to in-person learning, bringing a renewed focus to school security. Like many other districts, CPCSC uses Standard Response Protocol (SRP) in the event of a safety concern. Understanding SRP can provide parents and community members with a better understanding of how schools respond in different types of situations.

SRP is a uniform, planned, and practiced set of actions for emergencies developed by the nonprofit “I Love You Guys” Foundation. Founded in 2006 by Ellen and John-Michael Keyes after a school shooting took the life of their daughter, the “I Love You Guys” Foundation has become the go-to resource for schools to unify communication between staff, students, and first responders. Schools and other organizations around the country have adopted SRP, and the “I Love You Guys” Foundation supplies resources at no cost.

Should an emergency take place at a CPCSC school, students and staff are told which SRP action to take. Drills and safety presentations throughout the district use SRP so that students

and staff will know what to do. If a call is made to first responders, they know what actions students and staff have taken before arriving on the scene.

CPCSC Director of School Safety Dave Coulson notes that this bridge with emergency personnel is a major component in responding to emergencies. “We are always searching for best practices with regards to safety and security,” he said. “Under the SRP model, it is imperative that concise and consistent communication be used and understood by staff, students, and our external first responder (police/fire) partners. Members of our CPCSC safety team meet on a regular basis with these external partners to ensure that everyone is on the same page with regards to the established protocols.”

When many parents hear “school safety,” they often think of situations such as intruders or active shooters. However, Director of Secondary Education Mark Gianfermi says SRP is for all types of emergencies. “SRP does address actions to take in very severe or serious situations, but it’s important that we prepare for all types of emergencies,” he

said. “This could include things like weather issues, a suspected gas leak, or a student having a medical issue. SRP addresses all situations so that everyone knows what to do.”

In the event that SRP is used during a school day, parents can expect to receive communication from either their child’s school or the district office. Those notifications will be updated as frequently as possible if a situation is ongoing.

If a situation requires a school building to be evacuated, CPCSC will use the Standard Reunification Method, also from the “I Love You Guys” Foundation. This method is an organized, planned series of steps that relocates students to another building where parents/guardians can pick up their children. CPCSC has a reunification team of more than 50 individuals who receive training annually.

Combined, SRP and the Standard Reunification Method provide a consistent and specific framework for quick action in emergencies. The information on page 11 is a parent handout provided by the “I Love You Guys” Foundation.

Anyone can report a safety concern using our Safe Schools hotline. Anonymous tips can be made via our website, by phone or text at 219-306-8063, or by email at 1789@alert1.us.

See something, say something.



STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Our school has adopted The “I Love U Guys” Foundation’s Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Students and staff will be training, practicing, and drilling the protocol.

COMMON LANGUAGE

The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) is based on an all-hazards approach as opposed to individual scenarios. Like the Incident Command System (ICS), SRP utilizes clear common language while allowing for flexibility in protocol.

The premise is simple - there are five specific actions that can be performed during an incident. When communicating these, the action is labeled with a “Term of Art” and is then followed by a “Directive.” Execution of the action is performed by active participants, including students, staff, teachers and first responders. The SRP is based on the following actions: Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter.

HOLD

“In Your Classroom or Area”

Students are trained to:

- Clear the hallways and remain in their area or room until the “All Clear” is announced
- Do business as usual

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Close and lock the door
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual



SECURE

“Get Inside. Lock outside doors”

Students are trained to:

- Return to inside of building
- Do business as usual

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Bring everyone indoors
- Lock the outside doors
- Increase situational awareness
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual



LOCKDOWN

“Locks, Lights, Out of Sight”

Students are trained to:

- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Recover students from hallway if possible
- Lock the classroom door
- Turn out the lights
- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door
- Prepare to evade or defend



EVACUATE

“To a Location”

Students are trained to:

- Leave stuff behind if required to
- If possible, bring their phone
- Follow instructions

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Bring roll sheet and Go Bag (unless instructed not to bring anything with them, dependent on reason for evacuation.)
- Lead students to Evacuation location
- Account for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Green Card method.



SHELTER

“State Hazard and Safety Strategy”

Hazards might include:

- Tornado
- Hazmat
- Earthquake
- Tsunami

Safety Strategies might include:

- Evacuate to shelter area
- Seal the room
- Drop, cover and hold
- Get to high ground

Students are trained in:

- Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies

Adults and staff are trained in:

- Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies
- Accounting for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Green Card method.





an ELECTRIC addition

If you're driving through Crown Point, keep your eyes open for the newest addition to the CPCSC fleet - an electric bus. With only a handful of school districts in the state utilizing electric buses, the purchase puts CPCSC's Department of Transportation at the forefront of green energy transportation services.

The zero-emissions bus was largely purchased through a grant with the help of South Shore Clean Cities. It has an average of 120 miles per charge, which is reduced by about 7% in cold weather. CPCSC Director of Transportation Monica Vasquez says that the bus will only be used for routes inside the city limits as some of the longer routes near Winfield and Cedar Lake would not support the number of miles per charge. "We will keep this particular bus close to home," she said. "It's ideal for a shorter route in town where we know the charge will well exceed the number of miles covered in a day."

If the bus's battery is empty, it takes about three hours for a complete charge at a 60 kilowatt charging station, which has been installed at the CPCSC Transportation Center. Two main battery packs power the bus. Both packs are composed of 6,500 interconnected smaller batteries, each roughly the size of traditional AA batteries. They are liquid cooled or heated for better performance depending on the

weather. The bus has a safety zone indicator and a 360-degree camera system.

The first group to see the bus included students in CPHS's Advanced Auto class. The district's head mechanic Fred Brey and mechanic Tim Marlett (former CPHS auto student and 2018 graduate) brought the bus to CPHS where students could learn about trends in green transportation and ask questions. They were joined by Kelly Moore, General Manager from Kerlin Bus, and Ryan Lisek, Project Manager from South Shore Clean Cities. The students had great questions about the mechanics and safety of the bus and about the career outlook for technicians.

Kelly Moore encouraged students to learn as much as they can about newer technologies and to take advantage of any training available to them. CPHS Auto teacher Daniel White noted that job outlooks predict a shift for diesel mechanics. The average age of the workforce will drop as many mechanics retire in upcoming years. "There's going to be a change in talent in the next ten years," he reminded students.

Fred Brey recognized that while all of the students may not become auto technicians, learning a technical, hands-on trade is a valuable career path. "At the end of the day, there's always going to be a use for a guy that can turn a wrench," he told the class.



Above: Kelly Moore from Kerlin Bus starts the engine and shows CPHS auto students features of the bus's dashboard.

Opposite page: Students in the Advanced Auto class at CPHS examine the bus's engine.



FIND THE BUS!
You'll be able to spot the electric bus by its number - EV63. It's the only CPCSC bus (for now) that has the letters EV in front of the number.

a new kind of COACH

PCSC began the 2021-2022 school year by adding four new coaches. Not for athletics, not for clubs, but for the more than 450 certified teachers throughout the district.

Just one semester into the job, Joe Bysiek, Amy McCallister, Carole Lambersie, and Jake Adams are working with teachers to improve classroom learning. Together, the new instructional specialist team has more than 50 years of teaching experience in Crown Point schools.

When asked about a typical day for an instructional specialist, Joe Bysiek said no two days are ever the same. "Each day presents a variety of opportunities and challenges. We might be editing curriculum, providing professional development, analyzing data to improve teaching, or serving as guest teachers to model lessons in the classroom."

Despite every day being different, each of the specialists agreed that their role is about building positive relationships with teachers. Carole Lambersie said the most important part of her role is being a good listener. "We are entering into partnerships with teachers, administrators, and other district leaders with the intent to find how we can best support everyone," she said. Amy McCallister agrees. "Building relationships and trust with colleagues is an integral part of this job. This role allows us to be

a liaison between the classroom and the administration."

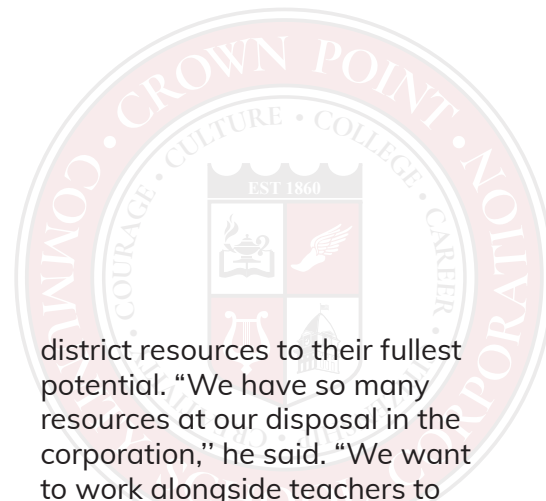
Lake Street Elementary's first grade team has seen the benefits of building those relationships firsthand. "The instructional specialists have been an excellent resource for answering questions, modeling new curriculum, and supporting us in the classroom," said teacher Tiffany Markham. "They have a deep understanding of our curriculum and are always ready to share new techniques or strategies that we can use to create meaningful lessons for our students."

Beyond relationship building and coaching, Jake Adams wants to support teachers by utilizing

district resources to their fullest potential. "We have so many resources at our disposal in the corporation," he said. "We want to work alongside teachers to maximize the impact of these tools on student learning."

The instructional specialist team all agreed that the most important part of their work is supporting student success and fostering the love of learning. Although their roles are new to the district, their coaching is already having a positive impact.

Secondary ELA Specialist Jake Adams leads a professional development session about effectively evaluating student writing.



PARAPROFESSIONALS

Part-time positions with approximately 6 hours each day. Paraprofessionals work directly with students. Whether helping 1-on-1 with students who have disabilities, coaching small learning groups, or assisting teachers, paraprofessionals make a difference in our buildings!

It's the biggest restaurant in town. Our food services team serves nearly 5,000 meals a day. Part-time positions with 3.5 hours each day - great for anyone with kids still in school!



FOOD SERVICES

our TEAM is hiring

Visit www.cps.k12.in.us/hiring to apply or for more information.

BUS DRIVERS

Transporters of our most precious people! We provide all training, including training to receive your CDL license. Full time positions that may eventually earn benefits are available.



SUBS



We recently increased the daily pay rate for substitute teachers. Full or half-day options are available. Substitutes are hired through our partners at ESS. Information is on our website.



CROWN POINT COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

200 East North Street, Crown Point, IN 46307

save the DATE

- February 10 - Online kindergarten pre-registration begins
- February 15, 9:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. - In-person kindergarten pre-registration at Winfield, Eisenhower, Lake Street
- February 17, 9:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. - In-person kindergarten pre-registration at MacArthur, Solon, Timothy Ball
- February 21 - No school, President's Day
- March 8 - eLearning day for all students
- March 28-April 1 - Spring Break
- April 15 - No school, Good Friday
- May 30 - No school, Memorial Day
- June 2 - Last student day
- June 7 - CPHS graduation

we are CP magazine is published by Crown Point Community School Corporation and mailed to residents in Crown Point, Winfield, and Cedar Lake.

Find us on social media and online
at www.cps.k12.in.us

